

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated November 17, 2006.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-23 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5, 287,194) in view of Snipp (U.S. 5,699,495).

Independent claims 1, 11, 20, 21, 23, 26 and 27 have been amended to more particularly point out important aspects of the claimed embodiments of the present invention. These claims have been amended with terms that more distinctly identify the separate networks involved in these embodiments. The separate networks are now identified as a first network and a second network. Previous claims described a local network and a remote network, which the examiner apparently equated with components within a single network that were “remote” and “local” to a specific workstation or client PC. Claims have been amended to better distinguish from the cited single-network prior art, which does not provide for inter-network printing.

In his rejection, the examiner cites Lobiondo as teaching the step of “acquiring, with a local print system component, printer data for a plurality of remote printers located in a remote network.” This element has been amended to refer to a first network print system component acquiring data regarding second-network printers. Lobiondo teaches a single-network system in which a system component acquires data regarding printers in the local network, which is now clearly distinguished from the presently claimed multiple-network system of these claims. Furthermore, Snipp is also a single-network system that does not comprise or teach a first network print system component acquiring data regarding second-network printers. Accordingly, the combination of Lobiondo and Snipp does not teach this claim element.

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Dependent claims in this group depend on the amended independent claims and comprise all the limitations therein. Accordingly, these dependent claims are now allowable as they comprise an element not taught in the combination of Lobiondo and Snipp.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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